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REVIEWS.

Baldwin, James Mark. *Social and Ethical Interpretations in Mental Development.* Fourth edition. Pp. xxvi, 606. Price, \$2.60. New York: The Macmillan Co.

It is safe to say, I think, that few persons would read this book for relaxation merely. It is not surpassingly difficult, perhaps, for a psychological treatise; but the whole thing hangs together in such a way that one must give it his best attention to appreciate the argument fully. One who will do this will be exceedingly well repaid for his effort. No one concerned with problems of development, either general or special, could be considered as abreast of the times if he had not made a careful study of this book.

What it attempts to do is to examine in detail the relations that exist between the development of the person as an individual, on the one side, and society as an organic unity on the other side. Employing the genetic method, the author seeks to show that the individual and the society of which he is a member are but aspects or perhaps poles of a unity.

The individual is the heir of all the ages of social experimentation and achievement, and this constitutes his "social heredity," of which he possesses himself by imitation. The individual is an imitative person, but he is also an inventive person. In the very process of imitation novel results are accidentally achieved, and if these have social worth they are "selected." The genius is a person who varies markedly from the general social trend, and in the direction of social approval. The individual is always a particularizing force, particularizing on social heredity; and society is the generalizing force, making universal and permanent the valuable particularizations of the individual. When any particularization is thus generalized, social development is the outcome. Society as an organism would not progress if the individual was not a particularizing agent upon his social heredity; nor would progress be attained unless the inventions of the individual were generalized by the group of which he is a member. Social progress is thus the outcome of give-and-take relations between the individual and the group.

The particularizations of any individual are an outgrowth of earlier particularizations. Social progress is always in an ethical direction, for society cannot generalize unethical particularizations of the individual. However, this does not mean that there is always ethical harmony between the individual and society. At times the individual may particularize in ways opposed by society, when either the individual must abandon his position, or society must accept his particularization. The book has already exerted a marked influence upon contemporary developmental psychology, not only at home, but abroad as well.

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